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MANGA
THE Tunnel TO Summer
The Exit of Goodbyes: Ultramarine
STORY: Mei Hachimoku
ART: Koudon
CHARACTER DESIGN: Kukka

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[1]

[Story] **Mei HACHIMOKU**

[Art] **KOUDON**

[Character Design] **KUKKA**

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ピク
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NAH, IT'S LIKE AN URBAN LEGEND.
SUPPOSEDLY, IF YOU GO INTO THE TUNNEL, YOU CAN GET ANYTHING YOU WANT.


Chapter 1
Clear Skies in
Monochrome


AAAGH.
REEIEE REEIEE REEIEE
I HATE SUMMER.
REEIEE REEIEE
THE HARSH SUNLIGHT, THE NOISE OF THE CICADAS...
IT'S TOO MUCH. IT'S DISTRACTING. I FEEL DEAD INSIDE.
IT'S ALREADY THIS BAD IN THE MORNING... IS IT REALLY ONLY JUNE?


WHAT? WHAT TUNNEL?
THE URASHIMA TUNNEL, DUH!
OH JEEZ, WILL THIS STORY FREAK ME OUT?
I DON'T KNOW. IT'S NOT REALLY SPOOKY.
BUT, LIKE, IF YOU GO INTO THE TUNNEL...
シャワ SHREE
シャワ SHREE
シャワ SHREE
THEY SAY YOU CAN GET ANYTHING YOU'VE EVER WANTED.
ザァァ... Fw-wssh...
ANY-THING?
ANY-THING!
BUT HERE'S WHERE THINGS GET KINDA FREAKY.
REEIEE
REEIEE
SO, YOU GET WHAT YOU WANT, AND YOU GO HOME, RIGHT?
BUT THEN...
シャワ SHREE
シャワ SHREE
シャワ SHREE



YOU GET WRINKLES, YOU LOSE YOUR HAIR...
YOU GET SHAKY--ALL OF A SUDDEN!
THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW... YOU'RE SUPER OLD!
REE-EE
REE-EE
REE-EE
HUNH... SO IT'S LIKE, WHAT WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE: YOUTH OR STUFF?
BASI-CALLY.
WHOA, SCARY!
I'M CREEPED OUT!
RIGHT?
SPEAKING OF SCARY... YESTERDAY, I SAW A SPIDER IN MY ROOM, AND...
REE-EE
じーわ
じーわ
REE-EE

UM, SORRY TO INTER-RUPT...
Peek
BUT IT SEEMS THE LAST TRAIN HIT A DEER.
Fw-wssh
WHAT, AGAIN?!
HOW LONG WILL THE NEXT TRAIN BE HELD UP?
I'D SAY ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES.
WHAT?! DANG, I'M GONNA MELT!!
OH YEAH.
ISN'T THAT TRANSFER STUDENT STARTING TODAY?
REEEIEE
REEEIEE
REEEIEE
IT'S SOOO HOT...


......
YO, KAORU!
DEER AGAIN?
AAH ... MORNING, KAGA.
UH-HUH.
ザワ Chatter
ザワ Chatter
ザワ Chatter


NOT SHOWING UP TILL SECOND PERIOD? NOW *THAT'S* A POWER MOVE.
LUCKY. I CAN'T PULL THAT "FASHIONABLY LATE" CRAP WITH MY MOPED.
Slump
REALLY?
TAKING THE TRAIN ISN'T GREAT. SUMMERS *AND* WINTERS ARE BRUTAL.
SAME DEAL WITH A MOPED.
THAT'S TRUE.
I GUESS THIS KIND OF STUFF DOESN'T HAPPEN IN TOKYO.
LIKE TRAINS HITTING ANIMALS OR WHATEVER.
TOKYO?
WELL...
PEOPLE ARE SAYING...
THAT'S WHERE THE TRANSFER STUDENT IS FROM.
WHOA...
MOVING FROM TOKYO TO THE STICKS MUST SUCK.
OH...



HEY, UM...ARE YOU HANASHIRO ANZU-SAN?
ARD YOU MOVED HERE FROM TOKYO--
WHAT?
PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE. I'M READING.
Flinch...
HUH?
UH...
......
WOW...
SHE'S A REAL WINNER.
SHE'S PRETTY, BUT A PERSONALITY LIKE THAT? WHAT A WASTE.
I JUST HOPE SHE DOESN'T GET BULLIED.
SHE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A PUSHOVER. MAYBE SHE'LL BE OKAY?
ヒソ Whisper
ヒソ Whisper


HANASHIRO WAS DIFFICULT, BUT BRILLIANT.
IF A TEACHER CALLED ON HER, SHE'D GIVE THE RIGHT ANSWER WITHOUT MISSING A BEAT.
IN GYM, SHE COULD OUTRUN THE TRACK-AND-FIELD CLUB.
NORMALLY, AN OUTSIDER LIKE HANASHIRO WOULD GET A BAD REP...
BUT WITH HER INTELLIGENCE AND ATHLETIC ABILITY, SHE CAME ACROSS AS A "GENIUS," NOT A "WEIRDO."
YET, ON HER VERY FIRST DAY...
HANASHIRO GOT A "LONER" REPUTATION.
HOW-EVER...
HEY...
HANASHIRO, RIGHT?



*Cheerio is a Japanese soft drink. It is very common in the region where this story is taking place, but less so in the Tokyo area.


OF COURSE IT IS! NOW SHUT UP AND GET GOING!!
IS THAT ENOUGH?
Clatter
HUH? YOU DON'T KNOW?
WHATEVER... GO BUY ME ONE AND MAKE IT SNAPPY.
NEVER HEARD OF IT.
HERE'S A HUNDRED YEN.
Slide
OH!
THAT WAS F--
SEE? PIECE OF CAKE.
KNEW IT.
FOR REAL!
Snicker Snicker


Ka-shak
Glug
Glug
Glug
Glug
Glug
Glug


KA-THUNK
MMM.
ALL DONE.
Chatter
OH CRAP, DID HANASHIRO JUST DRINK KAWASAKI'S ENTIRE SODA?
Chatter
I WANNA TRY THAT SOME-TIME!
Snicker
DANG, SHE CAN CHUG!
Snicker
Chatter
Chatter
Chatter
GRRRR!
WHAAA ...?!
T...!


THUMP
THUMP
TONO KAORUUU!!!
Gasp!
AH... ME?!
WHAT?
Creak
ICE CREAM!
GO BUY ME SOME!
HUH?


YOU GOT MONEY?
YOU NEED MONEY?! ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!
FINE.
HA HAAA! TONO'S SUCH A DOOR-MAAAT!!
SOOO...
......


AFTER ALL THAT, KAWASAKI MADE YOU FETCH HER SOME ICE CREAM...
AND YOU **PAID** FOR IT?
IT'S COOL.
DOESN'T SHE HAVE, LIKE, A SCARY BOYFRIEND? I DON'T WANT HIM COMING AFTER ME.
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO GROW A SPINE?
HMMM.
DO I NEED ONE?
YEAH, YOU DO! CAN'T STAND UP FOR YOURSELF WITHOUT ONE!
YOU COULD LEARN A THING OR TWO FROM THE NEW KID.
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T HAVE A SPINE.
IT'S JUST THAT BEING SPINELESS KEEPS ME STANDING TALL.
HOW DOES *THAT* WORK?


DID YOU KNOW THAT TELEPHONE POLES ARE HOLLOW INSIDE?
THEY'RE STURDIER THAT WAY.
SINCE I'M SPINELESS, I WON'T **SNAP** WHEN SOMETHING CATCHES ME OFF GUARD.
YOU MIGHT NOT GET IT, KAGA...
BUT IT'S A FIRST-RATE STRATEGY.
......
ARE YOU FOR REAL RIGHT NOW?
NOT REALLY.
BONK
Ouch!



THAT WAS HARSH!
OWWW.
PFFT.
Klick
YOU...
VRRRMMM
SHOULD GET ANGRY ONCE IN A WHILE.
YOU'RE NOT A TELEPHONE POLE...
Y'KNOW.
......
WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT.


OEDIPUS TYRANNUS
Oniichan.
KA...
REN?!


BOOONG
I'M HOME...
KAREN.



BETTER GET HOME AND DO THE CHORES.
Murmur Murmur
Murmur Murmur
MY SISTER KAREN WAS TWO YEARS YOUNGER THAN ME.
FIVE YEARS AGO, SHE FELL FROM A TREE AND DIED.
AFTER HER DEATH, I TOOK OVER THE HOUSEWORK.
AH HA HA!
Clink
Click
I'M COVERING FOR MOM. SHE DISAPPEARED AFTER KAREN'S DEATH.




……
I THINK ABOUT THE ACCIDENT ALL THE TIME.
THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD.
THAT DAY, IF ONLY I HAD--


IF ONLY I HAD STOPPED KAREN.
IF ONLY I HAD JUST SAID, "IT'S LATE, LET'S GO HOME."
IF ONLY WE HADN'T GONE OUT TO CATCH BUGS IN THE FIRST PLACE.
THEN KAREN WOULD STILL BE ALIVE.
......
IT'S ALL MY FAULT.
Tmp
Tmp
Tmp
Tick
Tick
Tick
Tick


Clatter
Thud
Thud
Slam
KAORU!
Jolt
BATH!
UUUGH...
SORRY, DAD. I'LL GO RUN THE BATH RIGHT NOW.


THE FRIED POTATOES I MADE...
HEY!
......
WHAT'RE YOU STANDIN' THERE FOR?!
IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHIN' TO SAY, SPIT IT OUT!!
Fshh
Blub Blub Blub
......
NOTHING.


DAD ISN'T MY BIOLOGICAL FATHER.
I WAS EIGHT WHEN I FOUND OUT...
I'M THE RESULT OF AN AFFAIR BETWEEN MY MOM AND SOME CHEATER.
BUT WE WERE STILL THE TONO FAMILY.
MY PARENTS SAW INFIDELITY AS A LITTLE MISTAKE THAT EVERYONE MAKES AT SOME POINT.
IN SPITE OF THAT, THEY BUILT THE PERFECT FAMILY WITH KAREN AT ITS CENTER.
BUT...
WHEN KAREN DIED...
EVERY-THING FELL APART.


Shwp
Click
Drip
Drip
Drip
Snrr
Snrr
HAAH.
Nnn-
Gaaah!
ZZ
ZZ
I'M GLAD I'M NOT YOUR REAL SON.
......
I GUESS I'LL GO FOR A WALK.


FWWSSSH
MY USUAL ROUTE...
FEELS SO MUCH STRANGER AT NIGHT.
Crunch ザク Crunch ザク Crunch ザク Crunch ザク
PLUS, I'M WALKING ON THE RAIL-ROAD TRACKS.
IT'S LIKE I'M IN THAT MOVIE... STAND BY ME, WAS IT?
ザク Crunch ザク Crunch
IT'S SAID...


THAT WHEN PEOPLE DIE...
THEY BECOME STARS.
Karen...
Karen, wake up.
Look, a shooting star!
Karen!


HA HA... THOSE WERE THE DAYS.
I TOLD HER SHE'D SEE THE NEXT ONE...
BUT KAREN NEVER DID GET TO SEE A SHOOTING STAR.
THERE WON'T EVER BE A NEXT TIME.
BUT MAYBE...
IF SHE BECAME A STAR...


KAREN ...
COULD SEE SHOOTING STARS EVERY NIGHT.
THAT WOULD BE NICE.
ザク Crunch
ザク Crunch
ザク。 Crunch
Fwsssh...
HMM.


July 1
12:02
Flip
IT'S ALREADY AFTER MIDNIGHT.
THIS IS THE WAY I ALWAYS GO HOME...
BUT I'M AFRAID TO GO THROUGH THE TUNNEL AT NIGHT. FIGURES.
I'D BETTER GO HOME.
HUH?
WHAT WAS THAT?
STAIRS?
Rustle...


......
HAVE THESE ALWAYS BEEN HERE?
Rustle— Rustle— Rustle—
I WONDER... WHAT'S DOWN THERE.
ギー
Rustle—
ギー
Rustle—
ギー
Rustle—
キチチッ
KREE KREE KREE


HWOO...
Shudder
WHOA!
I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A TUNNEL OVER HERE.
LOOKS HAUNTED.
I KNEW THIS WAS A BAD IDEA.
I SERI-OUSLY NEED TO--


"Have you heard of the Urashima Tunnel?"
TH-THERE'S NO WAY THAT'S REAL. IT'S JUST AN URBAN LEGEND.


SO, I JUST HAPPEN TO FIND A STRANGE TUNNEL...
THE SAME DAY I HEAR ABOUT THAT URBAN LEGEND. THAT'S AWFUL CONVENIENT.
THIS IS STUPID.
"Supposedly, if you go into the tunnel, you can get anything you want."
FIRST OF ALL: A TUNNEL WHERE YOU CAN GET ANYTHING YOU WANT? YEAH, RIGHT.
I'M GOING HOME.
BUT LET'S SAY...
LET'S SAY...
THERE REALLY IS AN URASHIMA TUNNEL...
WHERE YOU CAN GET ANYTHING YOU WANT.


ヒュオ
WOULDN'T I BE ABLE TO GET KAREN BACK?




THE Tunnel TO Summer
The Exit of Goodbyes: Ultramarine


"Have you heard...
"of the Urashima Tunnel?"
"Like, if you go inside the tunnel..."
"They say you can get anything you've ever wanted."
"So, like..."
"You get what you want, and then you go home, right? But then..."
"Next thing you know, you get super old!"
Chapter 2
Urashima Tunnel

Chapter 2
Urashima Tunnel




Fwp
Lift...
ヒュオ
FYUUU...
I'LL JUST...
GO A BIT FARTHER.
IF NOTHING'S THERE, I'LL TURN AROUND.
Crunch...


HWOO...


ザク
Crunch
ザク
Crunch
I DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO BE SO NICE INSIDE.
THIS GENTLE BREEZE IS CREEPING ME OUT.
ヒュオ… HWOO…
MY PHONE'S GOING TO DIE SOON.
THE BATTERY'S AT TEN PERCENT.
July 1
12:13
ザク
Crunch
ザク
Crunch
ザク
Crunch



ざく
Crunch
ざく
Crunch
ざく
Crunch
Crunch
Crunch
SHREE
Karen!
SHREE
SHREE
Karen!
SHREE
SHREE



SHREE しゃわ
SHREE しゃわ
SHREE しゃわ
SHREE しゃわ
SHREE しゃわ
Karen!!
Glow... ポゥ...
LIGHT?
IS THIS THE EXIT?
ざく Crunch
ざく Crunch
WHAT THE...? NOTHING'S HAPPENED.
WAIT.
THAT LIGHT ISN'T COMING FROM OUTSIDE.
ざく Crunch
ざく Crunch
ざく Crunch
Crunch...
WHAT ON...
EARTH?




Gulp...
EVEN THOUGH I WAS BORN AND RAISED HERE IN KOUZAKI...
I HAD NO IDEA THIS PLACE EVEN EXISTED.
LET'S SEE WHAT MY MAP SAYS.
THIS FEELS RELI-GIOUS...
OR RITUALISTIC.
No Service
Shudder
I'M IN SERIOUS TROUBLE.
I SHOULDN'T GO ANY FARTHER.
I'M ON SACRED GROUND.


THAT THING ON THE GROUND.
WHAT IS IT?
......
I'LL GO FIND OUT, AND THAT'S IT. AFTER THAT...
I'M GETTING THE HECK OUT OF HERE!
ザ
ク
Crunch...
A SANDAL?
IT'S SMALL.
MAYBE IT'S A KID'S SHOE?
Snag...


KAREN
BA-THUMP
Do you like my sandals?
Yeah, they're great.
Hey! You didn't even look at 'em, Oniichan!!
Don't they look nice on me?!
Sure, sure.



* "Kaeru no Uta" *("The Frog's Song") is a classic Japanese nursery rhyme.*


I FOUND THE SHOE WITH "TONO" WRITTEN ON THE BACK...
BUT I NEVER SPOTTED THE "KAREN" SHOE.
TONO
KAREN
COULD ...
COULD THIS REALLY BE--
NO, STOP...I'M GETTING CARRIED AWAY.
LIKE, A STRAY DOG COULD HAVE BROUGHT IT HERE...OR A CROW.
Shink
I MEAN, SURE, I DID SEARCH LIKE CRAZY FOR KAREN'S SANDAL...
BUT IF ANYONE ASKED, I WOULDN'T SAY I REALLY WANTED IT.
WHAT I REALLY WANT IS...


KAREN, HERSELF.
ザク…
Crunch...
BUT HOW FAR SHOULD I GO?
THERE'S NOTHING ESPE-CIALLY--
BAM
WAAAAAAAH?!!
SLAM
WHAT THE...?!

……
KII?
NO WAY!
THERE'S NO WAY THAT'S KII!
KII DIED OF OLD AGE BEFORE HE COULD LEARN ALL OF "THE FROG'S SONG."
Kii's Grave
KAREN AND I BURIED HIM.
Flutter


THE... FROG'S ... SONG!
......!
Flappa
AAAH!
WH- WHAT IS GOING ON?
I COULDN'T TOUCH A HALLUCINATION.
COULD THIS PLACE REALLY--
NO, WAIT.
I'M FORGETTING SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
THOSE GIRLS AT THE STATION THIS MORNING...
WHAT DID THEY SAY AGAIN?


"So, you get what you want, and you go home, right? But then...
"Next thing you know, you get super old!"


OH...
CRAP!
ざり…
Slide...
I NEED TO GET BACK.
I NEED TO...
DASH
ダッ
RUN!
I'VE GOT TO GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!!
ザッ
THUD
ザッ
THUD
HAAH!
HAAAH!
ザッ
THUD
ザッ
THUD
ザッ
THUD
HAAH!
じゃっ
Thump
GASP!
GASP!
BUT...


WHAT IF...
WHAT IF--?
Clench...


Ka-Thump
Tumble
Tumble
Pant!
Pant!
Pant!
Reach...
Pant!
Pant!
Pant!
Pant!
Pant!
Pant!


I CAN'T...
CHANGE THINGS... CAN I?
Pat
Pat
I'M NOT FEELING ANY WRINKLES.
NO OLD-MAN BEARD, EITHER.
Phew!
SO, WAS THE AGING THING JUST A RUMOR?
MY HEAD'S BEEN GOING TO WEIRD PLACES.
Shp
THAT SAID...


THAT...
REALLY WAS SCARY.
DEFINITELY KAREN'S. NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
THIS SHOE IS...
BUT MAYBE... IF I KEEP GOING...
THROUGH THIS TUNNEL--
I'VE HAD ENOUGH FOR TODAY.
......
Squeeze


WHEN I GET HOME, I'D BETTER NOT...
WAKE UP DAD. HE WON'T BE HAPPY.
Fwsssh
"I WISH YOU HAD DIED INSTEAD."
THAT'S WHAT DAD TOLD ME ONCE. IT WAS WINTER, MY SECOND YEAR OF JUNIOR HIGH.
DAD HAD COME HOME DRUNK. HE SAID IT CASUALLY, IN THE SAME TONE HE USED TO TALK ABOUT THE WEATHER.
HONESTLY, I JUST KEPT CALM AND SAID...
"I UNDER-STAND." I ACCEPTED IT.

MAYBE THAT WAS WHEN...
I REALIZED HE WAS A LOST CAUSE.
Sneak
Sliiide...
Smack
Stomp Stomp
KAORU?!
Whirl
OH CRAP!
Clatter
Ba-Thump
Ba-Thump
CRAP!!
Thud
Thud
Thud
IS... IS HE GONNA BEAT ME?
KAORU ...!


Grab
!
KAORU...
THANK GOD.
?
I'M SORRY FOR YELLING.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO IF I LOST YOU, TOO.
I'D HAD A LITTLE TOO MUCH TO DRINK.
IS DAD... APOLOGIZING TO ME?


THE SCHOOL CALLED ME, YOU KNOW. IT WAS HARD.
PROMISE ME YOU WON'T RUN OFF AGAIN.
WHERE DID YOU GO?
THE SCHOOL CALLED?
NOW HE'S BEING DRAMATIC.
I JUST WENT FOR A WALK.
BUT YOU CAN'T SAY WHERE?
TELL ME THE TRUTH. WHOSE HOUSE WERE YOU AT? DID YOU GO INTO THE CITY?
I WASN'T AT ANY-ONE'S HOUSE.
I DIDN'T LEAVE TOWN, EITHER.
OKAY, FINE...
BUT THIS HAD BETTER BE THE LAST TIME. I DON'T TAKE TALK OF MY SON GOING MISSING LIGHTLY.
DAMN IT!



YOU RUN OFF FOR AN ENTIRE WEEK AND YOU WON'T EVEN TELL ME WHERE YOU WERE!
?
ポリ…
Scratch...
THE BATH-TUB...
OH, I'LL DEAL WITH IT LATER.
Click
GOOD MORNING TO OUR VIEWERS AT HOME!
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN FOR ANOTHER HOT ONE TODAY...
I'M EX-HAUSTED.
Fwp
SHARP
SHOCK
......
Phone History
Calls In
Calls out
07/02 12:34 Kaga
07/02 20:05 Dad
07/03 00:17 Dad
07/03 10:15 Kaga
07/03 15:48 Kaga
HOW ON EARTH DID I MISS SO MANY CALLS AND TEXTS?


HEY...
WHAT'S WITH THE DATE?
HMMM?
WHY DID IT...
SKIP AHEAD TO NEXT WEEK?
July 8
04:08
1
2
3
July 1
12:13
IS MY PHONE BROKEN?
Skritch
Skritch
ALL THESE CALLS AND TEXTS CAME IN AFTER JULY SECOND.
Kaga 7/2
Subject: Catch a cold?
Dad 7/3
Subject: Sorry
Kaga 7/2
Subject: Are you okay?
Dad 7/4
7/4
7/3
answer
HERE'S THE RAIN FORE-CAST FOR TODAY, JULY EIGHTH!

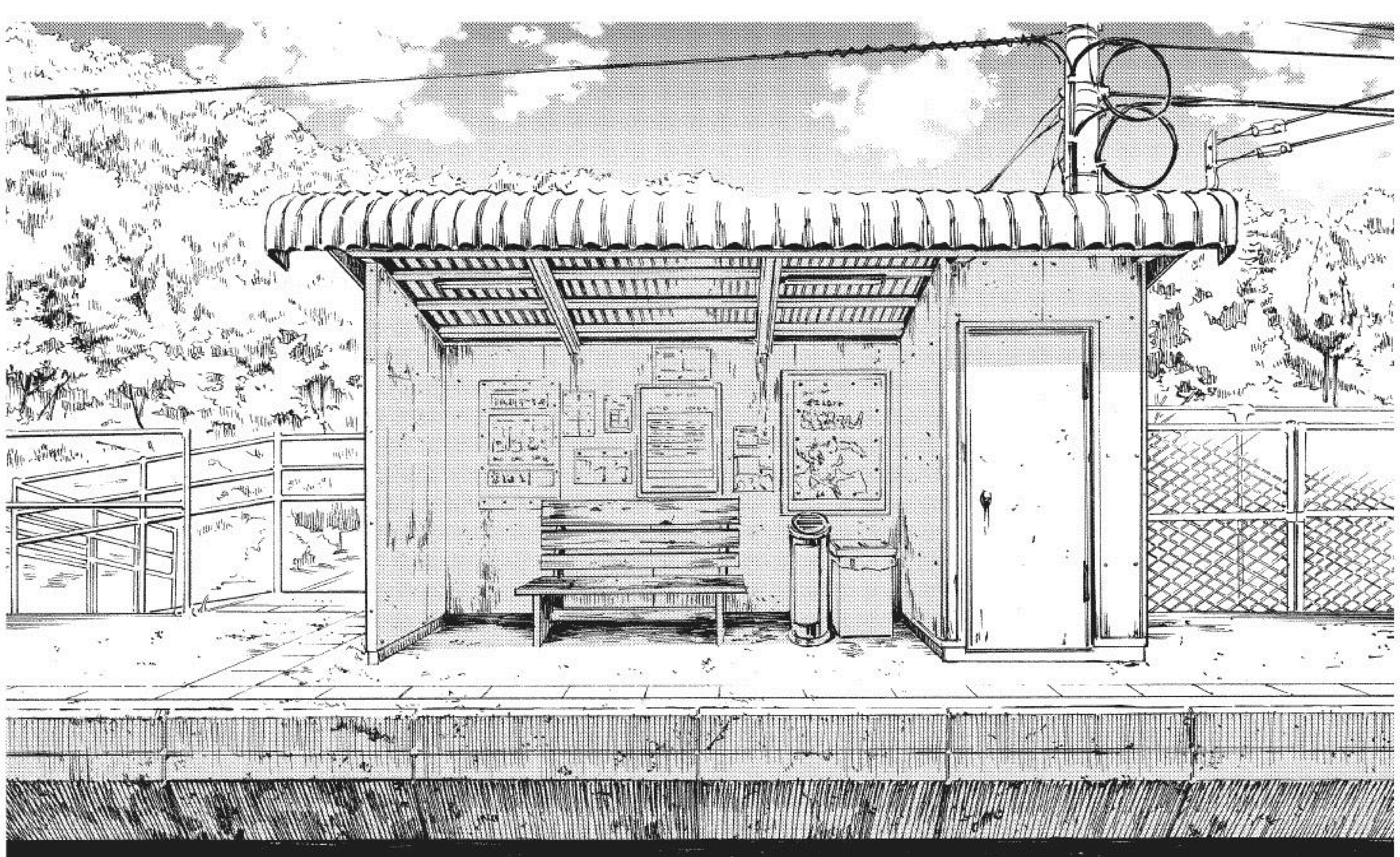

July 8 (Tuesday)
04:03
Chance of Precipitation
Okinawa
Sapporo
Hakodate
Akita
Aomori
Niigata
Kanazawa
Matsue
Hiroshima
Fukuoka
Osaka
Nagoya
Kochi
HANG ON...
IS THIS A JOKE?
BRRR BRRR BRRR BRRR
YEAH ...
Uh, hey, Kaga?! Got a quick question for you!
YOU ...
Whmp...
Do you know what time it is?
THAT'S WHAT I NEED TO KNOW!
THAT AND... WHAT'S TODAY'S DATE?
July 8 (Tuesday)
04:04
7/8 Mon
7/9 Tues
7/10 Wed
7/11 Thurs
7/12 Fri
7/13 Sat
7/14 Sun
Chance of Precipitation (%) 50 70 70 50 30 60 60
32 30 29 30 30 30 28
24 24 24 25 25 25 24
SHORP


What? *Um...* today's date...
I think it's the eighth.
Yeah. It's July eighth, about four a.m.
......
Oh.
But first...
ARE YOU SURE?
Yeah, dude. If you want to know this crap, just turn on the news. I'm seriously gonna kill you.


why did you skip school--
Bloop
?!
KAGA?!
......
MY PHONE DIED!
SOME-THING'S WRONG!
AM I NUTS?
DO I HAVE AMNESIA?
OR BRAIN-WASHED?
Clatter
SLAM
Thumpa
Thumpa
Thumpa


THERE'S JUST NO WAY.
A WHOLE WEEK?
Ba-dump
Ba-dump
I WAS OUT FOR TWO OR THREE HOURS AT MOST!
Ba-dump
MY FACE IS ALMOST TOTALLY HAIRLESS...
BUT I HAVE TO SHAVE EVERY THREE DAYS!
IF I'D BEEN GONE FOR A WEEK, I'D BE MUCH HAIRIER!
Ba-dump
AND SHOULDN'T I BE STARVING? I'M NOT EVEN THAT HUNGRY!
Ba-dump
MY PHONE'S BEING WEIRD, TOO!
WHEN I ENTERED THE TUNNEL, THE BATTERY WAS AT TEN PERCENT!
IF I DON'T CALL OR TEXT, CAN A BATTERY AT TEN PERCENT LAST AN ENTIRE WEEK?!
Ba-dump
Gulp...
NO...!


BA-DUMP
THE URASHIMA...
TUNNEL.
Ba-dump
WHAT THE HELL?
Ba-dump
Ba-dump
KAREN



THE
Tunnel
TO Summer
The Exit of Goodbyes:
Ultramarine


ガヤ
Chatter
MORNING!
THE URASHIMA TUNNEL...
IF WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY WASN'T A DREAM...
ガヤ
Chatter
ガヤ
Chatter
MAYBE KAREN...
YO, HE STILL OUT?
MIGHT REALLY...
Clatter
WHOA, SPEAK OF THE DEVIL!
HE'S BACK?
Chapter 3
Blossoms Bring Storms
TONO, WHY WERE YOU OUT?
YOU GET IN TROUBLE?
YOU SKIPPED CLASS FOR A WHOLE WEEK! WHAT THE HECK?


Chapter 3
Blossoms
Bring Storms


NO, I JUST...
CAUGHT A REALLY BAD COLD.
A COLD?
YOU BETTER KEEP THOSE GERMS TO YOURSELF.
WAS I REALLY OUT FOR A WEEK?
Slam
YO.
HEY, KAGA.



Chatter
Chatter
WHAT WAS UP WITH THAT EARLY MORNING CALL?
OH, THAT.
I WAS, LIKE, HALF ASLEEP.
YOU WERE OUT SICK FOR A WEEK. YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU STILL NEEDED BEAUTY SLEEP?
AHHH...
HMPH!
OH, REALLY?!
YEAH, I KNOW, IT WAS ROUGH. I ALMOST DIED--
LIAR.
YOU'RE AWFUL CHIPPER FOR SOMEONE WHO ALMOST DIED.
I MEAN, IF YOU WERE THAT SICK, HOW ABOUT LETTING THE SCHOOL KNOW?
I DON'T GET WHY YOU'D JUST GHOST EVERYONE.
......
YOU HAVE A POINT.


I GUESS, LIKE, I RAN AWAY? KINDA?
AND BEFORE I KNEW IT, A WHOLE WEEK HAD PASSED.
I DON'T WANT TO GIVE YOU THE "WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, SO YOU CAN TELL ME ANYTHING" SPEECH...
BUT HOW ABOUT A STRAIGHT ANSWER, YA DUMBASS?
SORRY.
OH, BUT FOUR A.M. PHONE CALLS? NO THANKS, DUDE.
I'M NOT PICKING UP NEXT TIME.
HEH HEH.
BUT... I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.
WHAT?
WITH THE TIME.
I THOUGHT I WAS GONE FOR A FEW HOURS, BUT IT WAS REALLY A FEW DAYS.
HOW DOES THAT WORK?


THAT'S TRUE.
YOU'D GET HUNGRY AND TIRED AND STUFF.
LOSING TRACK OF A FEW HOURS IS ONE THING, BUT YOU'D KNOW IF YOU WERE GONE FOR DAYS.
OH, I DIDN'T MEAN TO GET ALL DEEP!
I JUST WONDER IF IT'S, LIKE, A THING.
OH...
BUT IN SCI-FI NOVELS AND STUFF...
NAAAH.
Ba-dump
Ba-dump
Ba-dump
"THE URASHIMA EFFECT"?
WHAT'S THAT?
THERE IS SOMETHING CALLED...
THE URASHIMA EFFECT.


Tick
Tick
Tick
Tick
Tick
THE URASHIMA EFFECT!
IT'S NAMED AFTER URASHIMA TARO.
IT HAPPENS WHEN YOU'RE TRAVELING NEAR THE SPEED OF LIGHT, OR CLOSE TO SOMETHING WITH A STRONG GRAVITATIONAL PULL. TIME SLOWS DOWN.
TIME...
SLOWS DOWN?
BASICALLY, WHAT FEELS LIKE MINUTES TO THAT PARTICULAR PERSON...
ARE ACTUALLY HOURS, AS FAR AS THE REST OF THE WORLD IS CONCERNED.
THAT...

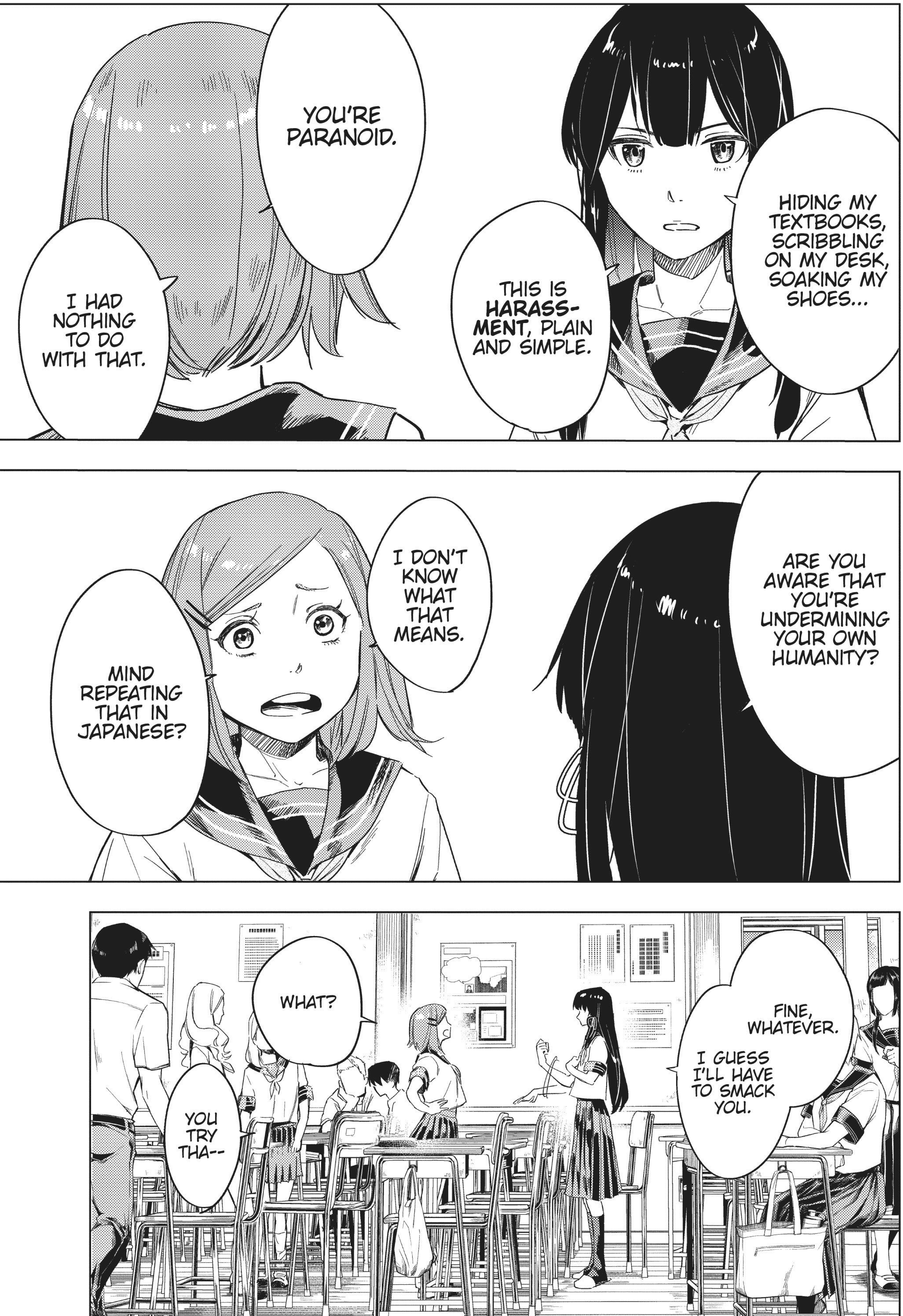

THAT MUST BE IT.
I MIGHT NOT KNOW MUCH ABOUT GRAVITY OR THE SPEED OF LIGHT...
04:08
BUT THAT WOULD EXPLAIN...
WHERE THE "URASHIMA" IN "URASHIMA TUNNEL" COMES FROM.
......
BUT WHO CARES ABOUT THAT?
WE'RE IN TROUBLE BECAUSE OF YOUR LITTLE DISAPPEARING ACT, YOU KNOW.
HUH?
HOW COULD I GET ANYONE IN TROUBLE WHEN I WASN'T EVEN HERE?


LOOK.
SEE HANASHIRO OVER THERE?
HUH? OH, SHE'S FINALLY WEARING OUR SCHOOL UNIFORM.
NO, LOOK UNDER HER DESK.
?
WHY IS SHE WEARING SLIPPERS?
WHERE ARE HER SCHOOL SHOES?
THAT'S THE THING. KAWASAKI--
HUUUH?
WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THE SLIPPERS?


SPLORCH
Shudder
HERE YOU GO!
THEY FELL IN THE TOILET.
LOL!
WAS THIS WHAT YOU MEANT BY "TROUBLE"?
YEP.
HOW IS THIS *MY* FAULT?
I MEAN, HANASHIRO DOESN'T CARE.
YEAH, YOU'VE GOT A POINT.
KAWASAKI ISN'T EVEN A BLIP ON HANASHIRO'S RADAR...
QUEEN BEE OR NOT.


YOU'RE GETTING ON MY FREAKIN' NERVES!!
C'MON, SAY SOME-THING!!!
Screech けん
けん Screech
YOU KNOW...
Sigh
Clatter ガタ
ざわっ Murmur
OH, MAN.
IT'S FINALLY HANASHIRO'S TURN.
ざわ Murmur
Murmur ざわ
ざわ Murmur


WHAT?
FEEL LIKE APOLOGIZING?
UM, KAWASAKI...
IS IT?
OUT OF CURIOSITY, DO YOU FIND THIS SORT OF THING FUN?
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "FUN"? DO YOU THINK I DID THAT TO YOUR SHOES?


HIDING MY TEXTBOOKS, SCRIBBLING ON MY DESK, SOAKING MY SHOES...
THIS IS HARASSMENT, PLAIN AND SIMPLE.
YOU'RE PARANOID.
I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT.
ARE YOU AWARE THAT YOU'RE UNDERMINING YOUR OWN HUMANITY?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.
MIND REPEATING THAT IN JAPANESE?
FINE, WHATEVER.
I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO SMACK YOU.
WHAT?
YOU TRY THA--


バキッ
POW
どてっ
THUD



ボタ Drip
ボタ Drip
......
OH, SORRY. I DIDN'T THINK I'D DRAW BLOOD.
BUT, WELL...
NOW WE'RE EVEN.
Silence...
Drip
......
Drip


HNNGH!
Bonk
Tmp Tmp Tmp Tmp...
HEH HEH... WHIMPERING, HUH?
LOOKS LIKE KAWASAKI-SAN'S REIGN IS OVER.
SURE DOES.



SERIOUSLY, THOUGH... HANASHIRO WAS INTENSE THIS MORNING.
Chatter
SO, DO YOU THINK GIRLS ARE COOL WITH FIGHTING IF IT'S WITH OTHER GIRLS?
Chatter
NAH, I DOUBT IT.
Rattle Rattaa
BAM
HEY...


IS HANASHIRO AROUND?


YO, WHICH ONE OF YOU IS HANASHIRO?
AH... ER...!
UMM...
GLANCE...
A-HA!
YOU HANASHIRO?
HUH?
I AM. WHAT IS IT?
COME OUTSIDE, I WANNA TALK TO YOU.
I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF LUNCH.


WHAM!
EEEK!!
YOU COMING OR NOT?
WHAT'S IT GONNA BE?
......
OKAY, GUYS... IF YOU SNITCH, YOU'RE DEEEAD.
UNDER-STOOD.



Murmur...
Murmur
WHY'D HE HAVE TO ASK ME?
Murmur
SO... KAWASAKI REALLY *DOES* HAVE A SCARY BOYFRIEND.
IF I WERE HANASHIRO, I MIGHT CRY.
OOOF...
SO, WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO?
Murmur
?
SHOULDN'T WE GO HELP HER?
WHAT?
WEREN'T YOU LISTENING THIS MORNING? THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT, KAORU.
I DON'T FOLLOW.
WHEN KAWASAKI GOT PISSED OFF, SHE'D MAKE YOU DO HER DIRTY WORK.
SHE TOOK OUT HER FRUSTRATIONS ON YOU.
WHEN YOU WENT ON VACAY, SHE SET HER SIGHTS ON HANASHIRO.
AND NOW...
THAT'S JUST...


YOU JUST SHOWED THAT GUY HANASHIRO'S DESK. YOU'RE COMPLICIT IN HIS CRIME.
UGH...
CAN YOU NOT SAY IT LIKE THAT?
THAT... THAT WAS NOTHING.
YOU'RE AS COMPLICIT AS I AM.
MAYBE.
Clatter
Murmur
SO, YOU'RE GOING?
I'M NOT GONNA PLAY DUMB.
Murmur
WHOA, COOL.
THAT'S A "MAIN CHARACTER" MOVE.
IF I'M THE MAIN CHARACTER, THEN YOU'RE JUST BACK-GROUND FILLER.
YOU'RE AN NPC.
Mrr...


GOOD LUCK SLEEPING IF SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS.
......
I'LL GET THE TEACHER THE MOMENT THINGS GO SOUTH.
OKAY.
THEN LET'S GO AFTER 'EM.
SO, HANASHIRO...
DO YOU KNOW WHY I CALLED YOU OUT HERE?


NOT REALLY.
OH, SO YOU LIKE TO PLAY DUMB, HUH?
ARE THEY ACTUALLY GOING TO DO THIS BEHIND THE GYM?
Whisper
Whisper
LET'S WATCH AND FIND OUT.
Whisper
Whisper
KOHARU TOLD ME YOU PUNCHED HER. HARD.
......
THAT I DID.
BUT I WARNED YOU IN ADVANCE, DIDN'T I?
I SAID I WAS GOING TO...
SMACK YOU.


KA-KRACK
WHAT IF I TOLD YOU THAT I'M GOING TO PUNCH *YOU* NOW?
THAT OKAY WITH YOU?
HUNH.
WOW. SO, HANASHIRO-CHAN THOUGHT IT WAS COOL TO HIT YOU IF SHE GAVE YOU NOTICE.
WELL...
IF YOU WANT TO, GO AHEAD.
HOWEVER, I WILL DEFEND MYSELF.
WHOOOA!!
JOLT
THIS IS BAD.
I'M GOING TO GET THE TEACHER.


HANA--!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT FOR?!!
SMACK


OH CRAP!
I NEED TO GET THE TEACHER...
BUT THINGS WILL JUST GET WORSE IF I DO.
COULD KAGA AND I STOP THIS?
THERE'S A CHANCE WE'D BECOME HIS NEXT TARGETS, THOUGH.
THUD
UGH...
W-WAIT, YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR!
Whirl
TCH!


THE TEACHER'S COMING!
OVER HERE, SENSEI!!
DAMN!
!
Whisper
WHERE'S THE TEACHER?
Whisper
I'M BLUFF-ING!
Whisper
OH!
DID THAT GUY CALL HIM OVER? Y'KNOW WHAT? FINE.
Shwp
YOU BETTER STAY OUT OF KOHARU'S WAY, HANASHIRO-CHAN...
'CAUSE NEXT TIME YOU ACT UP, YOU'RE DEAD MEAT.
Tremble
ワナ
ワナ
Tremble


ZWUMP
WHAT THE HELL?!
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
Click
LUNGE


THWAK
ダスッ!
Aaaghhh!
EEEEEEEK!
THWAK
ダスッ
KA-THWAK
ダス
ダス
KA-THWAK
THWAK
ダスッ
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, WHOA!
THAT'S ENOUGH! STOP IT!
HANA-SHIRO!
HANASHI-ROOO!!


GRAB
HANASHIRO! CALM DOWN!
LET GO OF ME!!
LET ME GO!!
Yank
LOOK! SEE THAT?!
THEY'VE HAD ENOUGH!!
H- HEY... WAIT...
DON'T ...
Stagger
Stagger
DON'T... FREAKIN' TOUCH ME!
TCH!


LET ME GO.
Haa...
......
Gnk
WHAT?
Glare
OH MAN...
I FEEL LIKE I'M IN A MOVIE.


Jolt
OH, SORRY.
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT MUST'VE HURT.
OOPS.
......
YOU SHOULD GO TO THE NURSE'S OFF--
I DON'T NEED YOU TO TELL ME THAT. I'M GOING.
NOW LEAVE ME ALONE!
Wobble
I'M GONNA MAKE SURE SHE GETS THERE OKAY. I'M KINDA WORRIED.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, KAGA?
NAH, I'M GOOD.


ミーン MIIN
みん MIN
みん MIN
みん MIN
みん MIN
ミーン MIIN
みん MIN
みん MIN
みん MIN
みん MIN
DID YOU GET INTO FIGHTS LIKE THAT AT YOUR OLD SCHOOL?
......
SO WHAT IF I DID?
I KNOW IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS...
BUT I DON'T THINK GIRLS SHOULD RISK SCARRING THEIR FACES.
WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF.
I MEAN, EVEN IF YOU DON'T CARE, OTHER PEOPLE MIGHT.
OTHER PEOPLE?
LIKE WHO?


UMM...
YOUR PARENTS?
WH-WHO? WELL...
I DON'T HAVE PARENTS.
"I wish you had died instead."
REALLY?

I...
ENVY YOU.
SHREE しゃわ
SHREE しゃわ
しゃわ SHREE
しゃわ SHREE
しゃわ SHREE
HUH?

P. 87, panel 1: Urashima Taro
Urashima Taro is the protagonist of a classic Japanese folktale. Taro, a young fisherman, saves a small turtle and is rewarded by being taken to an undersea palace for a feast and entertainment. A few days later, Taro becomes homesick, and the sea princess sends him back to his village with a jeweled box, warning him not to open it. When he returns, Taro realizes hundreds of years have passed, and everyone he knows is dead. He then opens the box and is instantly transformed into an old man.

THE Tunnel TO Summer
The Exit of Goodbyes: Ultramarine

THE
Tunnel
TO Summer
The Exit of Goodbyes:
Ultramarine


REEEEE じーわ REEEEE
I DON'T HAVE PARENTS.
REALLY?
I... ENVY YOU.
SHREE しゃわ しゃわ SHREE
SHREE しゃわ しゃわ SHREE
REEEEE じーわ REEEEE
Chapter 4
Sweat and Rinse
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?


Chapter 4
Sweat and Rinse


AH!
NOOO!
CRAP!
IF I SAY THE WRONG THING, SHE MIGHT COME AT ME WITH HER FISTS...OR A PEN.
NO, NOT "MIGHT." SHE TOTALLY WOULD.
......
THAT WAS TASTE-LESS.
I DIDN'T MEAN IT! DID I CATCH HER OFF GUARD? IS SHE PISSED OFF?
WHAT SHOULD I DO? WHAT SHOULD I SAY?
ERRR... UM...
Scratch...
!
BING BONG BING BONG


Waaave
Yak
OH! THERE'S THE BELL! I ALMOST FORGOT THAT OUR NEXT CLASS IS IN A DIFFERENT ROOM! I'D BETTER GET GOING OR I'LL BE LATE!
Yak
WELL, I'M OFF TO CLASS! TAKE IT EASY AT THE NURSE'S OFFICE, HANASHIRO!
Yak
HUH?
BYE!
WAIT A--!
JUST ACT LIKE YOU DIDN'T HEAR THAT!
Hustle
Hustle
キーンコーン
BING
BONG
カーンコーン
BING
BONG


OKAY, CLASS, FIFTH PERIOD IS OVER.
THERE'LL BE A QUIZ THIS WEEK, SO DON'T FORGET TO REVIEW THE MATERIAL.
Murmur
OOPS!
Murmur
Murmur
KAGA...
OH, HEY!
DID KAWASAKI-SAN NOT COME TO CLASS?
YEAH, SHE WENT HOME.
Murmur
Murmur
Murmur
AT LEAST, I THINK SHE DID.
NO, WAIT...
KAWASAKI WAS HERE AT THE BEGINNING OF FIFTH PERIOD. SHE CAME TO PICK UP HER BAG.
SHE...


LOOKED LIKE SHE'D GOTTEN OVER IT.
SHE... DID?
YEAH.
SHE LOOKED KIND OF SPACY, BUT SHE WAS SMILING.
SHE'S NOT GOING TO KILL HERSELF, IS SHE?
DON'T SAY STUFF LIKE THAT.
BY THE WAY, WHAT HAPPENED WITH HANASHIRO?
Fire Hydrant
NOTHING.
I GOT ALL NERVOUS AND THEN THE BELL RANG.
WHAT? BORING.


WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
NEVER MIND. SIXTH PERIOD'S STARTING.
KAWASAKI-SAN AND HANASHIRO DIDN'T SHOW UP FOR OUR NEXT CLASS...
BUT THE TEACHER DID MENTION THAT HANASHIRO "WASN'T FEELING WELL."
I WONDER WHAT HANASHIRO TOLD THE NURSE.
Chatter
BING BONG
BING BONG
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
Chatter
WHERE'S OUR CLUB MEETING TODAY?
DANG, IT'S HOT.
Chatter
MMM... AAAH!
HEY, READY TO GO?
Chatter
Chatter
HELLO?
ANYONE HOME?
KAORU?
Turn


OH, KAGA.
SORRY, I HAVE TO RUSH HOME TODAY!
SEE YOU TOMORROW!
Clatter
Rattle
HUH?
July 8 (Tuesday)
1 Math I PP. 16-21
2 Classics Quiz
3 JP History Review
4 English Quiz
5 Modern Japanese Printout
HEY...
Ka-Clack
Ka-Clack
Ka-Clack
Ka-Clack
Ka-Clack
Ka-Clack
......


I'M ALMOST POSITIVE THAT TUNNEL IS THE URASHIMA TUNNEL.
BUT A BUNCH OF THOSE RUMORS WERE WRONG.
LIKE...
THE TUNNEL DOESN'T TURN YOU "SUPER OLD." TIME JUST SLOWS DOWN.
AS FOR GETTING "ANYTHING YOU WANT," THAT DOESN'T MEAN "EVERYTHING."
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE YOU'LL FIND WHAT YOU WANT.
KAREN
BA THUMP
Ka-Clack
Ka-Clack
WHAT I WANT...
OR WHOM...
Ka-Clack


AN AVERAGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT LIKE ME...
CAN'T EXPLAIN THE TUNNEL SCIENTIFICALLY.
Psshhh
IT'S GOT TO HAVE RULES, THOUGH.
IF I COULD JUST FIGURE THEM OUT, EXPLORING THE TUNNEL WOULD BE WAY LESS RISKY.
AND THEN, MAYBE...
MAYBE I COULD FIND A WAY TO SEE KAREN AGAIN.
REEIEE
REEIEE
REEIEE


Captain Karen! We've got a problem.
Yes, sir!
Bzzz
What's wrong, Oniichan?
My net can't reach it.
What?!
That *is* distressing.
Whoa! You know some big words.
Even if I jump, I can't catch it.
What should we do?
C'mon, Oniichan.


OEDIPUS
Use your brain!
If you lift me up, then I can catch it!
When did you get so sassy?
I'm not doing that. It's too danger-ous.
Whssh
I'll be okay! I'm good at climbing trees!
Whssh
But...
I said I'll be fine!
If we don't hurry, they'll get away!
Mmmm...
Okay, but be careful.
I will!
Hurry, Oniichan!


I HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO SEE KAREN AGAIN.
THAT'S WHY...
I'M GOING TO SEE...
IF THIS TUNNEL REALLY IS THE KEY.
IT'S FOUR O'CLOCK ON THE DOT.
4:00
TODAY, MY GOAL IS TO FIND OUT HOW TIME WORKS INSIDE THE TUNNEL.
WHEN A MINUTE PASSES IN THERE, HOW MANY HOURS PASS IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD?
YESTERDAY, A FEW HOURS MADE ME DISAPPEAR FOR A WHOLE WEEK.
I CAN'T AFFORD TO BECOME URASHIMA TARO FOR REAL.
Pa-klak
HERE'S THE PLAN.


FIRST, I'LL GO IN AND OUT OF THE TUNNEL, OVER AND OVER AGAIN...
AT GRADUALLY INCREASING INTERVALS.
IF MY PHONE'S CLOCK HAS JUMPED FAR ENOUGH AHEAD BY THE TIME I EXIT...
I'LL KNOW I'VE CROSSED SOME KIND OF BOUNDARY...
AND I CAN APPROXIMATE ITS LOCATION.
I KNOW I WILL...
BUT...
HAAAH!
HAAAH!
HAAAH!
THIS...
SUCKS...
HAAAH!
HAAAH!


THIS IS THE ONLY STRAT-EGY...
I CAN THINK OF...
AND THIS FEELS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.
Pant...
I'VE BEEN IN AND OUT THIRTY TIMES, BUT EVERYTHING SEEMS NORMAL.
Pant...
Pant...
BUT IT'S HOT...
Sigh
......
I'LL TRY GOING AS FAR AS THE TORII GATES*. MIGHT AS WELL GIVE IT A SHOT.
......
*A torii gate is a traditional Japanese structure commonly found at the entrances of Shinto shrines.
IT'S NOT LIKE I NEED TO KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THE BOUNDARY IS...
A ROUGH IDEA IS GOOD ENOUGH.
Crunch...
LET'S SEE WHAT HAP-PENS.
Crackle
Crackle
HMMM...
Gulp



Crackle
パチ…
Crackle
パチッ
IT'S PRETTY IN HERE, BUT THERE'S DEFINITELY... SOMETHING UNSETTLING ABOUT THIS PLACE.
Phew!
OKAY, HERE GOES...
Clench...
THESE GATES DO...FEEL LIKE A BOUNDARY.
Ba-dump
Ba-dump
ザッ
Ka-
クッ
Tunk


I'LL ONLY GO AS FAR AS THE THIRD GATE, JUST IN CASE.
ザク
Crunch
ザク
Crunch
TWO...
ザク
Crunch
THREE ... THERE.
パチ
Crackle
パチ
Crackle
パチ
Crackle
ザクッ
Crunch
TIME TO HEAD BACK--


SHOCK
?!!
SHOCK


HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
HUH?!
WHAT? HA...
HANASHIRO?!
WHAT AM I DOING HERE?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
Oh!
?
NO, WAIT! THIS IS...
NO TIME FOR TALK!!
W- WE...
HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!!
HUH?! WHAT?!
Grab


DASH
Thmp
Thmp
Haa!
Haa!
Haa!
Haa!
Thmp...
UM...


YOU'RE HURTING...
MY HAND.
Jolt
AAAAGH!!
S-SORRY.
HEY--TONO-KUN...
HUH?
WHAT...
IS THAT?
Ah!
Flip


July 8
7:41
THREE HOURS HAVE GONE BY.
Glance...
......
RIGHT.
Stare
GUESS I SHOULD EXPLAIN MYSELF.
IF HANASHIRO TELLS ME WE SHOULD GET AN "EXPERT" INVOLVED, OR SOMETHING...
MY PLAN WILL BE IN TROUBLE.
I CAN KISS FINDING KAREN GOODBYE.
......
I COULD LIE--
NO.
SINCE I RUSHED HER OUT OF THE TUNNEL LIKE THAT, SHE MUST KNOW SOMETHING'S UP.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I CAN'T THINK OF A GOOD EXCUSE.



*A tsuchinoko is a legendary snake-like creature, said to roam the mountains and forests of western Japan.



WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE, TONO-KUN? WHAT DO *YOU* WANT?
Startle
NOTHING, REALLY.
I MEAN, THERE'S A LOT OF THINGS I WANT. MONEY, A BIKE, A GUITAR...
LIAR.
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN THAT STUFF, TONO-KUN.
WHAT'S THE *REAL* REASON?
WHY IS SHE GETTING ON MY CASE?
SHE NEVER ACTS LIKE THIS AT SCHOOL.
WHY DID YOU FOLLOW ME HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE?
THERE'S NO WAY THIS IS ALL A COINCI-DENCE.
ARE YOU ON A MISSION OR SOME-THING?
NO, IF THAT WAS THE CASE, YOU WOULD'VE SPOKEN UP EARLIER.
Grumble
Grumble
Grumble


GRRR... I'M GETTING ANNOYED JUST THINKING ABOUT THIS.
I'D BETTER...
TELL HER THE TRUTH.
YEAH.
NO EXCUSES.
WHEN I TELL HER THE REAL REASON I WENT INTO THE TUNNEL...
IT'LL PROBABLY CREEP HER OUT.
IF IT DOES, MAYBE SHE'LL TAKE OFF.
THAT WOULD SAVE ME A LOT OF TROUBLE.
FINE, I'LL TALK.
WELL, UM...


SO, THERE IS SOMETHING I WANT. A LITTLE SISTER...AND WHEN I SAY I WANT A LITTLE SISTER, I DON'T MEAN LIKE A NEW LITTLE SISTER I DON'T ALREADY HAVE...I MEAN, MY LITTLE SISTER WHO ISN'T...HERE ANYMORE. HER NAME WAS KAREN. SHE REALLY WAS CUTE, TOO. I PLAYED WITH HER EVERY DAY AND WE NEVER FOUGHT...BUT FIVE YEARS AGO, KAREN FELL OUT OF A TREE AND DIED, AND, WELL, IT WAS MOSTLY MY FAULT...BUT MY MOM AND DAD LOVED KAREN SO MUCH THAT THE SHOCK BASICALLY REWIRED THEIR PERSONALITIES AND OUR FAMILY FELL APART. YEAH, I THINK THE BREAKDOWN WAS A LONG TIME COMING. OUR HOUSEHOLD WASN'T THAT STABLE TO BEGIN WITH, BUT KAREN'S DEATH, YEAH, THAT'S BEEN TOUGH FOR ME TO ACCEPT, AND TO BE HONEST, I'VE NEVER GOTTEN OVER IT. NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I SAY THE WORD "DEAD," IT'S HARD FOR ME TO DIGEST THAT KAREN BEING "DEAD" MEANS HER LIFE HAS "FINISHED"... OR RATHER, I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT ONE DAY, SHE'LL WALK THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR AND SAY, "I'M HOME!" LIKE NOTHING EVER HAPPENED...BUT KAREN'S JUST A PILE OF ASH AND BONES AT THIS POINT. I KNOW THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL SHE'D JUST SHOW UP RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME. MY HOPES HAVE BEEN DASHED WHO KNOWS HOW MANY TIMES, BUT THAT'S BEEN A BLESSING IN DISGUISE.
Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah Blah
THIS IS THE MOST I'VE TALKED IN YEARS.
SO, BASICALLY... UMMM...
I'M GOING INTO THE URASHIMA TUNNEL...
TO GET KAREN BACK.


AND THAT'S THE TRUTH.
......
STUNNED
...... I DON'T KNOW WHY...
BUT WHEN I SAID KAREN'S NAME...
ALL THOSE WORDS JUST POURED OUT OF ME.
I COULDN'T STOP. MAYBE A SMALL PART OF ME...
REALLY WANTED TO TELL SOMEONE ABOUT IT.
HOW PATHETIC.
BUT NOW HANASHIRO KNOWS.
DID I GO OVER-BOARD? DID I WEIRD HER OUT? I CAN TAKE IT.
MMMRPH!



Ah ha Ah ha ha ha ha ha ha!
AH HA! AH HA HA HA HA! AH HA HA!!
?!
Hee hee!
YOU'RE...
YOU'RE A TRIP, TONO-KUN!!
Hee hee!
I DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING FUNNY, THOUGH.
Haa
HAVE YOU TOLD ANYONE ELSE ABOUT THIS TUNNEL STUFF?
NOPE, JUST YOU.


IT'S SO RIDICULOUS, NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE ME IF I DID.
OH...
I'LL BET! HAAH!
ZWOOP
HEY, TONO-KUN!
HUH?!
HER FACE!
IT'S SO CLOSE!
HER EYE-LASHES ARE SO LONG! HER SKIN IS SO CREAMY!
I CAN SMELL HER SHAMPOO!
W-WAIT, I'M BEING A PERV! I NEED TO CALM DOWN!
UM...
Y--
YEAH?!


WHY DON'T WE JOIN FORCES?
LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO FIGURE OUT THE URASHIMA TUNNEL...
AND FIND WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR.
TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE, RIGHT?
WORK... TOGETHER?


THAT MIGHT NOT BE SUCH A BAD IDEA.
I DON'T KNOW HOW COMMITTED HANASHIRO IS...
BUT IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE A PARTNER.
AND...
I DO LIKE THE SOUND OF "JOINING FORCES." IT FEELS LIKE A BUSINESS PROPOSAL.
......
OKAY, I'M IN.
REALLY?!
THEN IT'S SETTLED!
YEAH.
OH, BY THE WAY...
?


WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE?
OH YEAH, THAT.
THERE WAS SOMETHING I WANTED TO ASK YOU, TONO-KUN.
YOU FOLLOWED ME ALL THE WAY HERE FOR THAT?
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANY-THING?
WELL...
SEE...I DO LOVE A GOOD CHASE.
......
SO, WHAT DID YOU WANT TO ASK ME?
......
I FOR-GOT.
YOU FORGOT?



I'M STILL RECOVERING FROM SHOCK.
ISN'T IT ONLY NATURAL TO FORGET A THING OR TWO?
AND YET, YOU SEEM PERFECTLY FINE WITH THAT.
ANYWAY, TONO-KUN...
Reach
?
WHAT? YOU WANT MONEY?
I DIDN'T BRING ANY WITH ME.
WHY WOULD I ASK FOR MONEY AT A TIME LIKE THIS?


I WANT A HAND-SHAKE!
AS IN, "I'M LOOKING FORWARD...
TO WORKING WITH YOU!"
OH.
A HAND-SHAKE.
O-OH!
YOU WANT TO SHAKE HANDS!


......
Wipe Wipe
Clasp
LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU!
GIRLS HAVE...
SMALL HANDS.
Ba-dump




The Tunnel to Summer, the Exit of Goodbyes: Ultramarine—Volume 1 END

THE Tunnel TO Summer
The Exit of Goodbyes: Ultramarine

SPECIAL COMMENT

Manga Artist: Koudon
Thank you for purchasing *The Tunnel to Summer, the Exit of Goodbyes: Ultramarine*! My name is Koudon and I'm in charge of the art. I'm not much of a light novel reader, so when I began to adapt this book, I was shocked by how wonderful the original work was, and I wanted more people to discover it. With that in mind, the staff and I got to work. What lies at the end of the tunnel? I do so hope that you'll stick around until the very end!

Original Creator: Mei Hachimoku
It's refreshing to have the chance to write the afterword for a manga adaptation. I'm deeply moved by this opportunity. Because I wrote the original novel, Koudon-sensei ran the name of the manga series by me first. Even that early in the process, I knew my work was in good hands. I could feel Koudon-sensei's enthusiasm and affection for the story, and I became excited about following the series as a reader. Since I'm reading the series now, rather than writing it, I'd like to share my impressions as a humble reader: the manga is ridiculously good!


In the next volume...
WERE YOU WAITING LONG, TONO-KUN?
Rustle
They alone know about the Urashima Tunnel.
PACKING STRING 200m
In order to unravel the mystery behind the Urashima Tunnel... Hanashiro and Kaoru begin experimenting.
?
WHAT'S THAT FOR?
PFFT!
BEFORE WE START, CAN WE GO OVER THE PLAN ONE MORE TIME?
SURE.
KAREN...
If Kaoru can only bring his little sister back from beyond the grave...
MAYBE SHE'S...
Glow...
JUST UP AHEAD.
As he walks into the unknown, what scene unfolds before his eyes?
Crunch
Glow
Crunch
Crunch...
WHOA...
The Tunnel to Summer
THE EXIT OF GOODBYES: ULTRAMARINE
Volume 2 coming soon!

Koudon

Debuted under the name of Koudo in 2014 with *Werewolf Game*.
Notable works:
Werewolf Game (original creator: Ryo Kawakami)
Complete in three volumes
Werewolf Game: Beast Side (original creator: Ryo Kawakami)
Complete in three volumes
Werewolf Game: Crazy Fox (original creator: Ryo Kawakami)
Complete in four volumes
(All published by Takeshobo)

Mei Hachimoku

Debuted with the light novel *The Tunnel to Summer, the Exit of Goodbyes*, which won the GaGaGa Award and Jury's Special Award at the 13th Annual Shogakukan Light Novel Awards. They are also the author of the light novel *Wait For Me Yesterday in Spring,* published by GaGaGa Bunko.

KUKKA

Illustrator of series such as *The Tunnel to Summer, the Exit of Goodbyes*, (GaGaGa Bunko) and *Until I Kill My Favorite Novelist* (Kadokawa). Active in a wide range of fields, their work includes the main visual of the Tokyo Game Show 2020 Online, and CD jackets and music illustrations for *Eve* and *After the Rain.*

THE Tunnel TO Summer
The Exit of Goodbyes:
Ultramarine

THE Tunnel TO Summer

The Exit of Goodbyes: Ultramarine



SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

THE Tunnel TO Summer The Exit of Goodbyes Ultramarine

VOLUME 1

story by MEI HACHIMOKU art by KOUDON character design by KUKKA

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by Mei HACHIMOKU, KOUDON, KUKKA

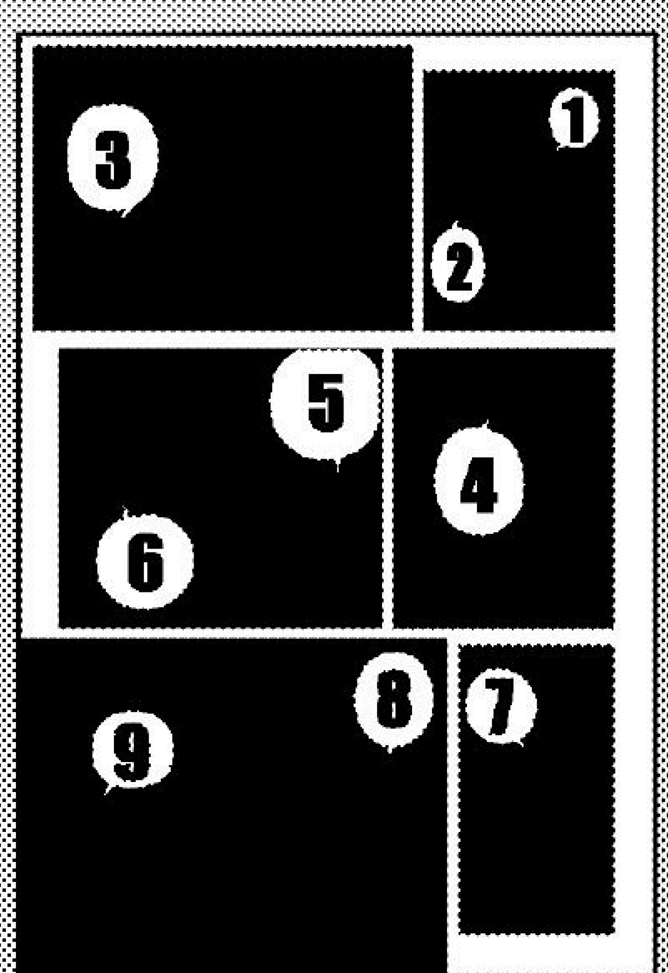
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READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!





Light at the End of the Tunnel

Kaoru heard a rumor: the laws of space and time mean nothing to the Urashima Tunnel. If you find it, walk through and your heart's desire will be on the other side...in exchange for years of your own life. The new transfer student Anzu promises to help Kaoru experiment with the mysterious tunnel—but what does she want from Kaoru in exchange? And what will he have left to give, after the tunnel's done with him?

An all-new manga based on the award-winning light novel which also inspired an anime feature film!

TEEN (13+)

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